THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) While there is no specific notification prohibiting children selling cold drinks and ice-creams, the Government had prohibited employment of children in dhabas, hotels, road-side eateries etc., with effect from 10.10.2006 which may include the selling of cold drinks and ice-cream in dhabas and road side eateries etc. As per the Hon'ble Supreme Court directives on regulation of hours of work, it has been envisaged that working hours of children in non-hazardous occupations should not exceed six hours per day and education for at least two hours is ensured. The entire expenditure on education is to be borne by the concerned employer.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The State Governments are 'appropriate' Government for enforcement of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 in their respective areas. As per the information received from the State Governments, 8056 cases were detected during the inspections carried out by State/UT Governments in these two occupations.

(f) Does not arise.

Effect of application of modern scientific methodologies on employment

3198. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a threat to the existing labour and the possibility of future employment in the application of modern scientific methodologies in industries leading to reduction of labour;

(b) if so, whether this threat has been taken cognizance by Government and if so, what measures have been taken to protect the existing labour strength on the one side and to develop potential areas for labour recruitment; and

(c) whether by doing so, it will not run counter to the proposed adoption of inclusive growth rate and the policy of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Large organised establishment prefer to go in for capital-intensive technology of production in order to raise productivity level so as to be more competitive in the market and for maximizing their profitability. This is corroborated by data published by the Annual Survey of Industries that showed the decline in absolute number of persons engaged in organized manufacturing sector from 9.54 million in 1996 - 97 to 7.87 million in 2003-04 when average annual growth rate of Index of Industrial Product (IIP) was 5.5 per cent and such growth of manufacturing sector was even higher than 5.9 per cent. Further, the employment intensity of registered units also indicates that an investment of Rs. 0.72 lakh is required for creating of one employment in micro, small and medium enterprises sector as against Rs. 5.56 lakh in the large organized sector.

The Eleventh Five Year Plan maintains that the additional employment opportunities in the future will be generated mainly in the services and manufacturing sectors, in particular, labour intensive manufacturing sectors such as food processing, leather products, footwear and textiles, and services sectors such as tourism and construction. Economic growth in different sectors is normally accompanied by growth in employment opportunities as well.